

BITTER BATTLES
STAGED IN SNOW
IN POLAND; FEW
DECISIVE GAINS

Germans Making Fierce Attempts to Take Warsaw. Reports Directly Contradictory

COLD AND SNOW
CHECKS FIGHTING
AROUND ERZERUM

Hungarians Reported Discontented Over Austro-German Attitude. Allies Make Small Gains

London, December 22.—(3:25 a. m.)—The German Emperor, accompanied by the imperial chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the ministers of war and marine and a numerous suite, has gone to the western front, according to advices to the Daily Mail from Copenhagen.

London, December 21.—(10:40 p. m.)—In Poland and Galicia battles are being fought between the Russians and the Germans and Austrian allies amid deep snow in bitter cold. In Belgium and northern France the Germans and the French, British and Belgian allies are contesting the mud fields foot by foot.

No news of any decisive gain came from either arena today. The Russian and German claims continue directly contradictory.

The Germans in Poland again are making a fierce attack toward the capital and the Russians are opposing them on the east bank of the Bzura river, 20 miles west of Warsaw. Grand Duke Nicholas' army here holds a natural strategic line 50 miles long, running roughly, north and south, along the east bank of the Bzura river.

Germans Retreat
The Petrograd official report claims that the German force in North Poland has retreated across the boundary into East Prussia in a northwesterly direction. It asserts also that the Austrian advance through the Carpathians toward the north has been checked and attempts of the Przemysl garrison to break through the lines have been repulsed. According to this report, the Austrians have been driven into the fortifications with heavy slaughter.

The Austrian communication claims successes in the Carpathians but admits that the Russians again occupy Galicia and South Poland in force. Apparently, therefore, the Carpathian and Przemysl investments are proceeding and have not been broken.

Severe fighting between the Russians and Turks around Erzerum, Turkish Armenia, has been stopped by a six-foot snowfall, and the intense cold from the Arabs are suffering bitterly.

Joffre Reports
Berlin publishes what purports to be an order issued by General Joffre, commander in the chief of the allied forces in the west, dated December 17, exhorting the soldiers and telling them the hour has come to "clear the invader from France."

A late Paris official bulletin describes small gains all along the line, particularly in the center between the Argonne and the Meuse. British ships again have been bombarding Zebruges and Hoyas as well as the coast beyond Ostend, where the Germans have established many shore batteries.

Political developments in Hungary, where people are reverting to a deeply discontented because they think that Germany and Austria are failing to give Hungary a fair share of protection, are the subject of much speculation and deep interest in England.

Attacks Progressing

Vienna, December 21.—(Via London, 11:35 p. m.)—The following official communication was issued today:

"In the Carpathians our attacks in the district of upper Lutorca are progressing well. To the northeast of Lupkow pass, on the front north of Krosnow and Tuchow and on the lower Dunajec river severe fighting is continuing."

"The situation in North Poland is unchanged."

Turks Reported Defeated

Petrograd, December 21.—The following official communication was issued tonight from the headquarters of the army of the Caucasus:

"In the direction of Van, on December 20, engagements occurred which resulted in the defeat of the Turks, among whom there were a great number of wounded. During the pursuit of the enemy we captured a piece of mountain artillery with 60 other pieces of equipment."

In the direction of Sary-Kamysh (trans-Caspian district), there have been several engagements of no importance."

Waterway Commission's Project Is Discussed

Senator Newland's Plan Taken Up By President and Interdepartmental Committee—Undecided as to Whether Plan Will Be Discussed

Washington, December 21.—Senator Newland's plan, generally approved by the President and the interdepartmental committee of the cabinet, for a commission to direct federal waterway control and improvement, was the subject of an extended conference at the White House tonight. Whether the plan should be pressed at this session of Congress was considered, but left undecided. The question will be taken up again at a date not fixed. Cabinet officials reported on their investigation of the subject and Secretary Lane announced the approval of the general plan.

Conferring with the President were Secretaries Garrison, Redfield, Lane and Houston. Senator Newland and George H. Maxwell of Chicago, executive chairman of the National Irrigation association.

BIRDMAN DROWNED
WHEN AEROPLANE
FALLS INTO THE SEA

Lieutenant F. J. Gerstner Meets Tragic Death Near Oceanside, Cal.—Pilot Rescued

Oceanside, Cal., December 21.—Lieut. F. J. Gerstner, observer in one of the six United States army scout aeroplanes that started today on a flight from San Diego to Los Angeles, was drowned in the sea 10 miles north of here. Capt. L. R. Muller, pilot of the wrecked machine, was rescued by Capt. L. W. Patterson, another army aviator, whose aeroplane had been wrecked near where Lieutenant Gerstner met his death.

Muller was badly bruised by the fall. Gerstner's body was recovered. Four of the six machines were brought to the earth near here. The other machine reached Los Angeles in safety. Stormy weather and bad air currents were blamed for the accidents. The aeroplanes were to have made the flight back from Los Angeles tomorrow to report the number and disposition of troops maneuvering in the vicinity of San Diego. The contest was for a trophy.

AMERICAN INVENTS
NEW WAR PROJECTILE

Will Scatter White Mixture of Molten Steel and Give Off Deadly Gas

Gloucester, Mass., December 21.—A new projectile which would scatter a white hot mixture of molten steel over the object of attack and fill the atmosphere with a deadly gas, making it impossible for fire fighters to approach has been invented by John Hays Hammond, Jr., according to a statement made by the inventor tonight. The missile may appear soon in the European war, as some of the belligerents are negotiating for its purchase, he said. The United States is conducting experiments with the projectile at Sandy Hook, he added.

The missile is designed for use in siege guns. Mr. Hammond explained that it carries an aluminothermic mixture which, five seconds after the projectile is discharged, turns the steel inside to a white hot mixture at a temperature of 5400 degrees Fahrenheit. When the projectile hits, the inventor said, it explodes, its white hot contents firing whatever inflammable material it strikes. To avoid the possibility of quenching the flames, Mr. Hammond said, he had equipped the projectile with a chamber filled with hydrocyanic acid, the fumes of which are deadly.

MONTGOMERY BANKS
DECLARE DIVIDENDS

Institutions Have Enjoyed Prosperous Years and \$75,000 Will Be Put in Circulation in Dividends

Montgomery, December 21.—(Special.)—That the banks of Montgomery have enjoyed a prosperous year is indicated by an announcement that about \$75,000 in semi-annual dividends will be put in circulation on January 1. The largest dividends expected will be those of the Fourth National and First National banks.

The former will declare its usual 4 per cent semi-annual dividend amounting to about \$30,000, and the latter will declare its usual 2 per cent quarterly dividend, amounting to about \$20,000.

Other banks of Montgomery will also declare good dividends. The new Early National bank probably coming third on the list. All the banks of the city are declared to have enjoyed a prosperous year.

SHERIFF ON STAND
IN PROBE OF RECENT
LOUISIANA LYNCHING

Shreveport, La., December 21.—Testifying at a public inquiry, Sheriff J. F. Flournoy of Caddo parish today revealed the name of one man, O. D. Cobb, who is alleged to have aided in taking Watkins Lewis, a negro, who was burned at the stake by a mob, from the parish jail here. Lewis was accused of complicity in the murder of Charles M. Hicks, a merchant.

The inquiry, being conducted by Attorney General Pleasant, was authorized by the district court in an effort to fix responsibility for recent lynchings in this parish.

Mr. Flournoy declared that the man's name was confided to him by the jailer, Tillman Galtin, who also was a witness at the inquiry. Galtin admitted that he recognized one of the men but refused to reveal his identity. Threats of the attorney general to send Galtin to jail did not bring the desired information.

The inquiry will be continued tomorrow. Up to a late hour tonight no arrests had been made.

Labor Delegates Named

Montgomery, December 21.—(Special.)—Eleven delegates to represent Alabama at the national conference of the American Association for Labor Legislation at Philadelphia, December 28-29, were appointed by the governor today. Following are the delegates named: E. L. C. Ward, Talladega; C. H. Nesbitt, Birmingham; A. Latady, Birmingham; Walker Percy, Birmingham; Frank P. Glass, Birmingham; S. Berry, Mobile; John C. O'Connell, Mobile; Isadore Shapiro, Birmingham; Frank S. White, Washington; W. R. Bailey, Birmingham; and S. J. Bowie, Birmingham.

The proposed commission would have authority over questions relating to development, improvement, regulation and control of navigation as a part of interstate and foreign commerce, and related questions of irrigation, forestry, fisheries, swamp land reclamation, clarification of streams, flood regulation, and water power utilization.

It has been suggested that an amendment be submitted in the Senate to the rivers and harbors appropriation bill providing for the organization of the commission to investigate the broad waterway scheme outlined. Such an amendment was defeated when the big rivers and harbors appropriation bill was blocked at the last session after the filibuster. Appropriations for the scheme, according to the Newlands bill, would amount to \$50,000,000 a year for 10 years or a total of \$500,000,000.

UNEMPLOYED LESS IN ENGLAND NOW

London, December 21.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Latest statistics relating to the insured trades of the United Kingdom show the percentage of unemployment on December 4 was 3.61 as against 2.83 a month previous and 4.18 at the same time a year ago.

Among the unique features there is a decrease in the number of unemployed.

STATE DELEGATION
OF CONGRESSMEN
EVENLY DIVIDED ON
HOBSON RESOLUTION

Legislative Weapons Sharpened for Opening of Prohibition Struggle in the House Today

NECESSARY VOTE
TO CARRY MEASURE
EXPECTED BY FEW

Hobson Believes Majority Vote Is in Sight — Underwood Outspoken Against Adoption of Measure

Washington, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Five for the Hobson prohibition resolution and five against it is the prospective division of the Alabama delegation in the vote to be taken tonight as indicated in informal and semi-confidential chats between members today. Reports that members had held a caucus in favor of the resolution or had contemplated the unit vote for the delegation are without foundation in fact.

As yet, several of the Alabama men are reluctant to commit themselves and prefer to wait till the arguments have been heard. Representative Underwood has announced openly on the floor that he intends to vote against the resolution for a federal constitutional amendment, but he is not one of the 43 members who has been so outspoken.

Hobson Confident

On the eve of the crucial test, Captain Hobson and several others, who have sounded the sentiment of the House, are convinced that the resolution will carry a majority vote, although no one expects that the requisite two-thirds will be registered in its favor. Immediately on the announcement of the result the prohibitionists will start a new campaign with the avowed purpose of compelling national prohibition throughout the Sixty-fifth Congress, should it fail in the Sixty-fourth.

By unanimous consent, the House today agreed to meet at 10 o'clock a. m. tomorrow morning, when a rule will be brought in for consideration of the Hobson resolution. Forty minutes will be devoted to discussion of the rule, which everyone expects will be adopted. The music must be faced sometime, it is felt, and it might as well be tomorrow as later in the session. Eight hours will be given to debate on the resolution itself, and it is figured that a vote will be reached about 9 o'clock in the evening.

The feeling prevails that while in a majority of cases members will be damned no matter which way they vote, they will not be criticized as severely as though they dodged the issue, so the number of absentees is expected to be comparatively light.

Legislative weapons were furnished up today for the final struggle.

Opponents of prohibition were certain tonight that it would be impossible to muster the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the House necessary to send the joint resolution to the Senate. Supporters of the resolution claimed a substantial majority, which at least would assure victory in the preliminary skirmish—the vote on the special rule, presented by Chairman Henry of the rules committee, for the consideration of the Hobson resolution.

General Debate

Under terms of the rule, eight hours of general debate will be allowed on the resolution. Representative Hobson tonight had a list of some 30 members who wished to speak for the measure, and numerous applications had been made for time in opposition.

All efforts to arrive at a division of time had failed and Speaker Clark will endeavor to allot time as equally as possible to both sides. Majority Leader Underwood, Representative Witherspoon of Mississippi, Dupre of Louisiana, Henry of Texas, Bartholdt of Missouri, Stafford of Wisconsin and Kahn of California, are expected to speak in opposition to the resolution, while among those on Representative Hobson's list to speak in its favor were:

Representatives Abernethy, Wingo, Selmdridge, Thomson, McKenize, Connolly of Kansas, Barclay, Powers, Lindquist, Quinn, Stephens of Mississippi, Bryan of Washington, Decker, Farr of Pennsylvania, Hughes of West Virginia, Keating, Moon, Mondell, O'Hair, Ruple, Selks, Sinnott, Borland, Fess, Murray of Oklahoma, Garrett of Texas, Saunders, Houston and Walters.

Text of Resolution

The Hobson resolution proposes a constitutional amendment as follows:

Section 1. The sale, manufacture for sale, transportation for sale, exportation for sale, and importation for sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes in the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof are forever prohibited.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have power to provide for the manufacture, sale, importation and transportation of intoxicating liquors for sacramental, medicinal, mechanical, pharmaceutical, or scientific purposes or for use in the arts, and shall have power to enforce this article by all needful legislation.

The resolution carries a preamble setting forth that science has demonstrated that alcohol is a narcotic poison and reciting its evil effects.

There were some 300 members in Washington tonight and prohibition leaders asserted their confidence that well over half of these would vote for the resolution.

GARNER.

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He Should Be Happy This Christmas



THE WAR SITUATION

GERMANY	RUSSIA	FRANCE
<p>Berlin, December 21.—(By Wire- less.)—Items given out for publication today by the official press bureau include:</p> <p>"Bulgaria has notified Vienna, Nish and Bucharest of the departure of Hungarian steamers on the Danube with war material for Bulgaria."</p> <p>"Commercial cables in Genoa again have protested against the seizure of cargo boats by British warships. The Corriere D'Italia demands energetic steps by the Italian foreign minister in the case of the Italian ship Verona, bound from New York, which has been arrested by a cruiser."</p>	<p>Petrograd, December 21.—The official communication issued today by the Russian general headquarters says:</p> <p>"In the region of Mlawa (North-east Poland) the Germans have fallen back towards the line of Lautenburg-Neidenburg (across the frontier into East Prussia)."</p> <p>"In Galicia the Austrian offensive is being greatly hindered by our troops and the operations in this region have taken on a character extremely favorable to us. One of the Austrian divisions which was operating in the vicinity of Dukla Pass was easily defeated by a bayonet charge made by our troops."</p>	<p>Paris, December 21.—(10:50 p. m.)—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:</p> <p>"British troops have attacked and this morning regained most of the trenches previously lost. Before dawn the enemy delivered four successive attacks for the purpose of recapturing the trenches which we had previously won in that sector, but all of them were repulsed."</p> <p>"An attack to the northwest of Palsanne, south of Noyonne, we have gained a foothold in the enemy's trenches of the first line and have made progress in the wood of Saint Mard."</p>

L. & N. ALLOWED TO
DISCONTINUE LOCAL
PASSENGER SERVICE

Important Orders Made in Favor of Roads by Railroad Commission—Advance in Rates

By L. S. BETTY

Montgomery, December 21.—(Special.)—Discontinuance of local passenger train service by Louisville and Nashville and Western railroads, an advance in rates on 34 commodities handled in Alabama, and a withdrawal of all special rates from the mining centers to industries in the Gadsden, Anniston and Talladega districts were features of various orders issued this afternoon by the Alabama railroad commission.

The most important order of the commission was given at the request of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad company, and the Western Railway of Alabama to discontinue local passenger train service in the state. Authority was granted the Louisville and Nashville railroad to discontinue trains Nos. 9 and 10, between Georgiana and M'Intosh, and trains Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 12, between Montgomery and Birmingham.

The Western was granted authority to discontinue trains Nos. 34 and 35, between Montgomery and Selma.

Important Order

Another important order of the commission was issued in response to petitions of all the railroads operating in Alabama, that they be allowed to advance rates on 34 commodities from 20 to 25 per cent. The commission granted an advance of 10 per cent on all commodities except on fertilizers.

Regarding special coal rates from the mining districts to industries in Gadsden, Anniston, Talladega and other places, the commission required the withdrawal of all these rates except those to pig iron and steel furnaces. The commission denied the petition of the railroad to advance rate on coal 10 cents from the mines to Birmingham and denied the petition for a reduction in rates from Birmingham to Dothan, and from Montgomery to Alexander City.

On rehearing of the Selma coal rate case, the commission ordered the establishment of the rate 11 per ton. Another order was issued by the commission in granting the petition of the railroads on Southern classification, No. 49, under this

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BUSINESS MEN SELL
PAPERS FOR CHARITY

Detroit, December 21.—Business and professional men, all of whom once were newsmen, sold papers on the city streets today. Nearly \$2200 collected will go to Christmas charity. More than 70 well known citizens pled their trade and "fought" for choice corners. Papers brought as much as \$50 and \$100.

FRANK AGAIN LOSES
POINT IN FIGHT TO
STAY HIS EXECUTION

Judge Newman Refuses to Grant Certificate Stating There Is "Probable Cause" for Appeal

Atlanta, December 21.—Federal Judge Newman today declined to grant a certificate stating that in his opinion "that there was probable cause" for an appeal to the United States supreme court in the habeas corpus proceedings instituted by Leo M. Frank, under sentence to be hanged January 22 for the murder of Mary Phagan.

Judge Newman stated at the close of an extended hearing that he was willing to allow Frank to appeal, but that he would not certify the appeal. According to Frank's attorneys under the law of 1906 relating to appeals in habeas corpus cases in the federal district courts, Judge Newman's decision in effect means that they will be compelled to go before a justice of the supreme court and make application to him to grant an appeal before the matter can be brought before the highest tribunal. This, they said, they intend to do. It was stated the matter first probably would be brought before Justice Lamar.

Announces Decision

In announcing his decision on the appeal in open court today Judge Newman said: "I would be glad to have the supreme court pass upon the question presented in this proceeding, but since I have heard the petition and decided that I could not issue the writ, I believe that I cannot say that there is probable cause for an appeal." To do so, it seems to me, would

(Continued on Page Seven)

PRACTICAL MEASURE
FOR THE RELIEF OF
COTTON SITUATION
IS PASSED BY HOUSE

Lever Warehouse Bill Adopted by Vote of 218 to 97. Similar Measure Has Passed Senate

UNDERWOOD MAKES
SPEECH STRONGLY
SUPPORTING BILL

Establishment of Uniform Warehouse and Uniform Warehouse Receipts Is the Object of the Measure

Washington, December 21.—(Special.)—As a measure of practical relief for the south in the cotton crisis the House this afternoon passed the Lever warehouse bill, which, as the Hoke Smith bill, already has gone through the Senate. The vote in its favor was 218 to 97, with all the Alabama members voting for it except Representatives Blackburn and Harris, who were not present.

The great margin in favor of the bill was attributed largely to a short speech by Representative Underwood, in the course of which he said:

"When a planter's cotton is stored in a private warehouse, the extent to which people believe in its value is measured by their confidence in the integrity of the planter. If the cotton be stored in a county warehouse their confidence in its value will be proportionately greater, and so, too, with a state warehouse. But, when you come to the national government, when it has the right to inspect warehouses and issue certificates, the confidence in values will extend from one end of the country to the other."

Days of '90's

"I recall the days back in the '90's, when there was little sale in our section for iron and steel. At that time a great company established one yard and issued warrants for pig iron, showing where stored, etc., and while it still was hard to sell pig iron, these warrants could be negotiated because men who took them knew they were guaranteed by a great corporation and it will be the same thing in the case of cotton."

"If you pass this bill, the man who places his cotton in a warehouse can take his certificate to any part of the United States and no one will hesitate to negotiate it."

"I regard this bill as one of the most advanced steps that have been made each year in the interest of agriculture."

Lever's Statement

"In speaking of the measure, 'will result in the establishment of uniform warehouse and uniform warehouse receipts for agricultural products throughout the country. It will give a certainty and value to warehouse receipts which will make liquid the evidence of ownership of great products. It will enhance the value of warehouse receipts as collateral on which loans may be sought by producers. It will give greater negotiability to agricultural receipts for agricultural products."

"The measure will bring together more closely agricultural products and banking capital. It will result in larger storage facilities for agricultural products and will serve as an incentive to farmers to store their products and thereby save millions of dollars of weather loss each year. It will furnish to the farmer for the first time in this country the machinery through which he not only may know the class or grade of his products, but its commercial value. It will put him in a position to market his crops when the demand is strongest and the price highest. It is a farmers' bill and a most far reaching forward step in our cumbersome system of marketing."

The bill is not compulsory in any way.

GARNER.

BROWN REFUSED NEW TRIAL

Nashville, December 21.—In the United States court here today a new trial in the case of Will B. Brown, former assistant cashier of the First National bank of Gallatin, Tenn., was refused. Brown was recently convicted of the charge of embezzling \$40,000 of the bank's funds. Judge E. T. Sanford sentenced him to serve seven years in the Atlanta federal prison. Herbert Jackson charged with being an accomplice was also sentenced to serve five years. Both sentences were suspended until after the holidays.

DECISION CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM

Washington, December 21.—(Special.)

The decision of the interstate commerce commission granting in the main the increases asked by the eastern railroads, has produced a most favorable impression. The spirit of optimism is growing daily, and a marked improvement is already noted in some quarters in lumber and steel products. Many, who 60 days ago were pronounced pessimists, are now predicting a general business boom in the near future.

TODAY'S AGE-HERALD

- 1-Bitter battles staged in snow.
- 2-Mary Allen Cole in 1914.
- 3-Cotton exports approach record.
- 4-Editorial comment.
- 5-Jere C. Blinn says.
- 6-Society.
- 7-Winfred.
- 8-Mark.
- 9-Mark.
- 10-Second.